(f) the details of lakes taken up during 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as under :-

S. No.	Name of Lake	State	Approved Cost	Period of Sanction
1.	4 Lakes of Nainital District	Uttaranchal	Rs. 16.85 crore	July, 03
2.	Nainital Lake	Uttaranchal	Rs. 47.97crore	Aug, 03
3.	Mirik	West Bengal	Rs. 4.01 crore	Aug, 04
4.	Chanapatna Lake, Hasan	Karnataka	Rs. 4.97 crore	Jan, 05
5.	Banjara Lake	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 2.75 crore	Feb, 05
6.	3 Lakes of Agartala	Tripura	Rs. 2.01 crore	Mar, 05
7.	Mahalaxmi Lake	Maharashtra	Rs. 1.85 crore	Mar, 05
8.	Sharanbhasveshwara	Karnataka	Rs. 4.89 crore	Mar, 05
9.	Akkamahadevi, Haveri	Karnataka	Rs. 2.64 crore	Mar, 05

The Ministry has carried out a study for identification of lakes for conservation under National Lake Conservation Plan. The list drawn through this study has been sent to all States for prioritization of lakes in their State. Complete list of prioritized lakes from states are yet to be received. During the current year (2005-06), a provision of Rs. 68 crore is available under NLCP. The Action Plan drawn for the programme includes monitoring & implementation of ongoing lakes besides consideration of new proposals, namely, Dal(Jammu & Kashmir) and Veli Akkulum (Kerala)Lakes, which are already approved by respective Expert Committees and other fresh proposals depending upon the availability of resources under the plan.

Smuggling of skins and organs of animals by mafia gangs

†1333. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many mafia gangs are active in smuggling of skins and organs of animals after poaching them in National Parks;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have formulated any concrete policy for the protection of tigers and other wild animals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Reports of tiger/ leopard skins and body parts being smuggled by gangs have come to light at times.

(b) to (d) In this regard following actions have been taken at the Government of India level:

(i) A memorandum of understanding with Nepal has been signed to establish a Joint Task Force to check the trafficking across the borders.

(ii) An Indo-Chinese Protocol on tiger conservation is in existence which, *inter alia*, stipulates joint measures to crackdown illegal activities of poaching of tigers, smuggling and selling tiger bones and other parts of tiger as well as its derivatives.

The other steps taken by the Government of India for protecting wildlife are stated in the Statement.

Statement

Details of steps taken by Government of India to protect the wildlife

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

(iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002–2006) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.